



AMESBURY

CITY HALL
62 Friend Street
Amesbury, MA 01913

City Council Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, November 10, 2015
City Hall Auditorium
7:00 p.m.

Council President McMilleon called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Councilor Bartley.

Roll call was taken.

The following were present: Councilor Bartley, Councilor Bezanson, Councilor Ferguson, Councilor Lavoie, Councilor McClure, Councilor Moavenzadeh, Councilor Sherwood, Councilor Sickorez, and Councilor McMilleon

There were no minutes to act on.

Correspondence, President/Vice President Communications, Communication from Elected Officials, Boards and Commissions, Council Communications, Announcements and Committee Reports:

Councilor McClure said that the Veteran's Day Parade was cancelled due to rain, but festivities will take place inside at the Middle School at 10 a.m. She also mentioned there will be a Workshop held on November 17 at 6 p.m. to discuss the Lower Millyard.

2015-074 Resolution to issue a Proclamation to Declare November 13 "World Pancreatic Cancer Day" in the City of Amesbury.

Councilor Ferguson moved to accept 2015-074, a resolution to issue a proclamation to declare November 13 "World Pancreatic Cancer Day" in the City of Amesbury. Councilor Barley seconded. It was voted unanimous.

Mayoral Appointments:

2015-073 Appointment of Matthew Chapin to the Lakes and Waterways Commission for a term of two years to expire June 30, 2017.

Matthew Chapin spoke briefly about his interest in this position.

Councilor Ferguson moved to accept 2015-073, the appointment of Matthew Chapin to Lakes and Waterways Commission for a term of two years to expire June 30, 2017. Councilor Sherwood seconded. It was voted unanimous.

A list of the current licenses and permits that are up for renewal are attached to the minutes and are available for review at the Clerk's Office.

Pole Hearings:

2015-075 National Grid Pole Hearing to construct a line of underground electric conduits, including the necessary sustaining and protecting fixtures, under and across the public way or ways hereinafter named 37 Middle Rd.

Joe Ientile, National Grid, gave a brief overview of the project on Peters Way. The work would be done in a few weeks. The abutters were notified.

Councilor McMilleon opened the public comment.

Councilor McMilleon closed the public comment.

Councilor Sickorez made a motion to accept 2015-075, an order to move the poles as described within.

Councilor McClure seconded. It was voted unanimous.

Councilor McMilleon opened the public comment portion of the meeting.

James Thivierge, 8 School St., spoke about a newspaper article which appeared in The Daily News from October 23, 2015, about the tax rate.

Councilor McMilleon closed the public comment portion of the meeting.

Council response to public comment was made by Councilor Ferguson.

Public Hearings:

2015-062A An Order to renew the Audit agreement for the years ending June 30, 2015, June 30, 2016, and June 30, 2017, with Melanson Heath as outlined in the May 14, 2015, Memorandum of Understanding to Mayor Gray from Melanson Health

Summary: To renew the Auditor to annually conduct the Audit of the City's financial position for FY2015 through FY2017.

Councilor McMilleon opened the public hearing.

James Thivierge, 8 School St., proposed an amendment that in even years that the auditor explain to the community the whole audit; and that in 2017 the audit be in the building and library by October 1, prior to the next election.

Councilor McMilleon closed the public hearing.

Councilor McClure read the recommendation from Finance Committee. She recapped the Audit committee meeting for the Council. She said she will give a copy of the letter from Melanson and Heath to the Council.

Councilor Lavoie said at some point we should change auditors.

Councilor Lavoie objected to a vote being taken.

Councilor Ferguson objected also.

Councilor McMilleon said this item will be referred to the regularly scheduled meeting on December 8, 2015.

2015-064 An Order to authorize the Mayor to accept and expend a Community Development Block Grant in the amount of \$985,922 from the Massachusetts Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development.

Summary: The City of Amesbury and the Town of Salisbury submitted a joint CDBG application to the EOHEd's Department of Housing and Community Development in order to obtain this grant award for housing rehabilitation and social services in both communities. The total award will be distributed as follows: Amesbury total \$415,000, Housing Rehabilitation: \$375,000 and Social Services \$40,000. Salisbury total \$325,922, Housing Rehabilitation: \$275,922 and Social Services \$50,000. Shared Administrative costs, \$245,000. Councilor McMilleon opened the public hearing.

James Thivierge, 8 School St., asked the Council to look into hosting a workshop to get to the bottom of tax titles.

Councilor McMilleon closed the public hearing.

Councilor Sickorez and Councilor Bartley noted two typographical errors on the agenda that was previously read into the record (the corrected version is above in the minutes).

Councilor McClure read the Finance Committee recommendations.

Councilor Sickorez moved to accept 2015-064, the order to authorize the Mayor to accept and expend a Community Development Block Grant in the amount of \$985,922 as submitted. Councilor McClure seconded.

Roll Call Vote – 9 – Yes.

2015-065 An Order to authorize the Mayor to, on behalf of the City, enter into an Inter-municipal agreement with the Town of Salisbury for the purposes of regional participation in the 2015 Massachusetts Community Development Block Grant program.

Summary: The agreement would provide Amesbury and Salisbury with a vehicle to administer the CDBG programs regionally through a collaborative approach between administration of the Town of Salisbury and the administration of the City of Amesbury.

Councilor McMilleon opened the public hearing.

James Thivierge, 8 School St., said he agrees with this. He made note of foreclosure ads in the Daily News. William Scott, Director of Community and Economic Development, briefly went over the changes to the document that were made by the Ordinance Committee at their last meeting.

Councilor McMilleon closed the public hearing.

Councilor Lavoie read the recommendations from the Ordinance Committee.

Councilor McClure read the Finance Committee recommendations.

Councilor Sherwood moved to accept 2015-065, the Order to authorize the Mayor, on behalf of the city to enter into an intermunicipal agreement with the Town of Salisbury for regional participation in the Massachusetts Community Development Block Grant program as amended by the Ordinance Committee. Councilor Sickorez seconded. Roll Call Vote - 9 – Yes.

2015-068 An Order to authorize the Mayor to enter into a five-year lease-purchase agreement for the procurement of a new Fire Attack Pumper.

Summary: the Fire Department seeks to purchase a new Fire Attack Pumper that will become the Front Line Pumper.

Councilor McMilleon opened the public hearing.

James Thivierge, 8 School St., asked the Council to look into long term capital bond issues.

Councilor McMilleon closed the public hearing.

Councilor McClure read the Finance Committee recommendations.

Councilor Sherwood recapped what was discussed in the Finance Committee meeting for the public.

Councilor Bartley moved to approve 2015-068 to authorize the Mayor to enter into a five year lease-purchase agreement for the procurement of a new Fire Attack Pumper. Councilor Sickorez seconded. Roll Call Vote – 9 – Yes.

2015-069 An Order to authorize the Mayor to accept and expend a grant in the amount of \$7,500.00 from the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners.

Summary: Full STEAM Ahead is a \$7,500 federal grant that will be used to create programming and STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art, and math) related opportunities for children aged 0-6 years old. The grant funding will be available in October 2015 and must be spent by September 2016. Through this grant the Children's Room will be able to offer services that the Amesbury Public Library would otherwise not be able to provide, such as:

Create STEAM themed storytime kits for patrons to take out.

Start a monthly sensory storytime for special needs children aged 4 and up.

Purchase a discovery center table and stock it with hands-on items for children to explore in the picture book area.

Create an outdoor StoryWalk in collaboration with Coastal Tails and Amesbury Trails.

Hire presenters and performers, such as Mass Audubon, high touch high-tech, Seacoast Science Center, and others.

Train all the children's staff on sensory storytimes and other STEAM related programs.

Councilor McMilleon opened the public hearing.

James Thivierge, 8 School St., said the grant writers should be congratulated.

Jane Snow, Fern Ave., spoke about the StoryWalk and said it will brighten your day.

Councilor McMilleon closed the public hearing.

Councilor McClure read the Finance Committee recommendations.

Councilor Sherwood moved to approve 2015-069 to authorize the Mayor to accept and expend a grant in the amount of \$7,500 from the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners. Councilor Bartley seconded. Roll Call Vote – 9 – Yes.

First Readings:

2015-070 An Order to request the City Council vote to hold the annual Classification Hearing to vote on four (4) separate items in order to establish the tax burdens for each class of property.

Summary: On an annual basis, the City Council must vote on the issue of selecting a residential factor which will determine the percentage of the burden to be borne by each class of property.

Councilor Lavoie moved to refer 2015-070 to the Finance Committee Meeting to be held on November 24, 2015; and for a public hearing at the City Council Meeting to be held on December 8, 2015. Councilor Sickorez seconded. It was voted unanimous.

2015-071 An Order to request the City Council vote to increase the exemption amount of qualified applicants.

Summary: On an annual basis, the City Council must vote to decide if the City of Amesbury shall increase the exemption amount of qualified applicants under the provisions of M.G.L.

Councilor Ferguson moved to refer 2015-071 to the Finance Committee Meeting to be held on November 24, 2015; and for a public hearing at the City Council Meeting to be held on December 8, 2015. Councilor Sickorez seconded. It was voted unanimous.

2015-072 An Order to authorize the Mayor to accept and expend a grant in the amount of \$6,200 from the Massachusetts Cultural Council.

Summary: The Massachusetts Cultural Council is allocating \$6,200 from the FY 2016 Local Cultural Council Funds to the Amesbury Cultural Council's local fund.

Councilor Ferguson moved to refer 2015-072 to the Finance Committee Meeting to be held on November 24, 2015; and for a public hearing at the City Council Meeting to be held on December 8, 2015. Councilor Sickorez seconded. It was voted unanimous.

2015-076 An Order to authorize a transfer from Salary Reserve to various OPEIU Salaries.

Summary: Transfer \$18,235 from Salary Reserve to OPEIU Salaries to cover FY2016 increases.

Councilor Sickorez moved to refer 2015-076 to the Finance Committee Meeting to be held on November 24, 2015; and for a public hearing at the City Council Meeting to be held on December 8, 2015. Councilor McClure seconded. It was voted unanimous.

2015-077 An Ordinance to request the City Council to accept updated Traffic & Parking regulations.

Summary: The original Traffic Regulations were adopted on October 19, 1964 and updated on November 9, 1999. The Traffic Commission has recently updated these regulations to include changes since 1999.

Councilor Lavoie moved to refer 2015-077 to the Ordinance Committee Meeting to be held on November 18, 2015; and for a public hearing at the City Council Meeting to be held on December 8, 2015. Councilor Sickorez seconded. It was voted unanimous.

2015-078 An Order to request that the City Council vote to appropriate two hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$250,000.00) from the 40R stabilization funds for public improvements and planning.

Summary: To provide for public improvements and planning pursuant to the guidelines set forth in Order 2007-075 as voted on by the City Council on September 25, 2007, and as further detailed in the letter from the Community Development Director dated October 29, 2015 to Mayor Ken Gray, which is attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference.

Councilor Sherwood moved to refer 2015-078 to the Finance Committee Meeting to be held on November 24, 2015; and for a public hearing at the City Council Meeting to be held on December 8, 2015. Councilor McClure seconded. It was voted unanimous.

2015-079 An Order of the City Council to grant an Easement to Hatter's Point Capital LLC within Merrimac Street, a Public Way, to Construct, Install, Maintain and Repair Improvements to Protect the Structural Integrity of Merrimac Street and the Buildings within Hatter's Point Condominium.

Summary: In order to construct Phase II of the Hatter's Point Condominium, Hatter's Point Capital LLC requires Easement rights within Merrimac Street to construct a support system for both Merrimac Street and the new buildings within Hatter's Point Condominium.

Councilor Ferguson moved to refer 2015-079 to the Ordinance Committee Meeting to be held on November 18, 2015; and for a public hearing at the City Council Meeting to be held on December 8, 2015. Councilor Sickorez seconded. It was voted unanimous.

2015-080 An Order of the City Council to Amend a Water Main Agreement between the City and Hatter's Point Capital, LLC Related to the Development of Phase II of Hatter's Point Condominium.

Summary: In connection with the construction of the Hatter's Point Condominium the original developer was required to install approximately 4780 linear feet of new water line. However, due to design improvements, the Planning Board has modified the obligations of the new developer, Hatter's Point Capital LLC, necessitating an amendment to the original Water Main Agreement.

Councilor Ferguson moved to refer 2015-080 to the Ordinance Committee Meeting to be held on November 18, 2015; and for a public hearing at the City Council Meeting to be held on December 8, 2015. Councilor Sickorez seconded. It was voted unanimous.

Late File:

2015-081 An Order of the City Council to Amend Bill No. 1998-140 Establishing the Traffic and Transportation Commission and to Repeal Bill No. 2001-35 Amending the Authority and Duties of the Traffic and Transportation Commission.

Summary: The City Council shall vote its intent to amend Bill No. 1998-140 and Bill No. 2001-35 to revise the makeup and authority of the Traffic and Transportation Commission to allow for greater efficiency and accountability with respect to the regulation of traffic control in the City.

Councilor McClure moved to accept 2015-081 as a late file. Councilor Sickorez seconded. 8 – YES and 1- NO (Councilor Ferguson).

Councilor McClure moved to refer 2015-081 to the Ordinance Committee Meeting to be held on November 18, 2015; and for a public hearing at the City Council Meeting to be held on December 8, 2015. Councilor Sickorez seconded. It was voted unanimous.

Councilor Ferguson thanked the Clerk's Office for a job well done at the election.

Councilor McClure moved to adjourn at 8:05 p.m. Councilor Sickorez seconded. It was voted unanimous.

The meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dawne Warren
Office of the City Clerk
Administrative Assistant